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## NUCLEAR MEDICINE PROCEDURE MANUAL 1997-98

William C. Klingensmith III, Dennis Eshima and John Goddard, Editors, Englewood, CO: Wick Publishing, Inc.; 1997; loose-leaf manual; \$225.00 U.S.; PC- or Macintosh-compatible disk \$195.00 U.S.

The editors are a physician, a pharmacist and a physicist, respectively. The manual is available in print or on a computer disk. The print format comes in a loose-leaf binder and the computer disk is available in various formats compatible with Macintosh® or PC computers. The print and computer disk formats also may be purchased as a set. The manual includes a user guide that provides owners of earlier editions with information on the changes made to the 1997-98 edition.

The manual includes information about general policies, quality control/assurance, radiopharmaceuticals, dosimetry, regulatory agencies and sample protocols and imaging parameters for most commonly performed diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures. The manual also includes a disclaimer by the editors and the publisher that states, "users of the manual are responsible for the application of the listed procedures, and that the procedures should not be used until they are reviewed and approved by a physician."

The main drawback to the manual is that it does not provide a sample protocol or imaging parameters for the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures listed in the appendices. Instead, the editors list the procedures and provide a number of references for the reader to refer to for further information. A small nuclear medicine department without additional resources would most likely find it difficult to obtain copies of many of the references listed by the editors. I will concede to the editors that the forty plus diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in the appendices are not routinely performed in most nuclear medicine departments. But this underscores the importance of the editors providing users of the manual with a sample protocol to follow.

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## J N M T B O O K S H E L F

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The manual would be an excellent addition to supplement the curriculum of nuclear medicine physician and technologist training programs, as the 1997-98 edition contains sample protocols for recently-approved imaging agents such as <sup>111</sup>In-capromab pentetide (ProstaScint®), <sup>99m</sup>Tc-nofetumomab merpentan (Verluma®) and <sup>99m</sup>Tc-tetrofosmin (Myoview®), as well as information on performing PET studies.

Overall, I found the *Nuclear Medicine Procedure Manual* easy to read, with each procedure well referenced and the sample protocols easy to follow. Nuclear medicine departments wishing to supplement their department procedure manual will find the *Nuclear Medicine Procedure Manual* a handy reference and a useful resource.

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## RADIOPHARMACY COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION FOR MEDICAL IMAGING SCIENCES

Ann M. Steves, Edwardsville, KS: Educational Software Concepts, Inc.; 1996; \$150.00 U.S. for each of six programs in the radiopharmacy series (MIS 9021-9026); 3.5-inch PC- or Macintosh-compatible disks; cost includes institutional software license.

This set of computer disks (MIS 9021-9026) offers tutorials and self-assessment in radiopharmacy. The accompanying literature states that it is intended to offer: individualized, self-directed learning; ASRT-approved continuing credits; and certification exam preparation. The author of these diskettes is well known for other publications with similar aims.

The tutorials are available on 3.5-inch, PC- or Macintosh-compatible disks. Installation is quick and easy. Each disk has the following format: (1) a list of learning objectives; (2) one or more tutorial sections; (3) a self-assessment test; and (4) a bibliography. The tutorial sections generally consist of two to four sentences per screen, with practice questions in-

terspersed throughout. For the practice questions, answers are marked correct or incorrect, with an explanation and an opportunity to choose again. There is a glossary on each disk that is readily accessible. The self-assessment tests are 19-25 questions each. The questions are multiple-choice and true-false, and correct and incorrect answers are explained.

The material covered and the self-assessment questions are generally appropriate and well-written. A person can learn a great deal of the radiopharmacy curriculum from these disks. Except for the self-assessment exercises, these disks would not benefit a student already taking a radiopharmacy class because the material is identical to what must be taught in the classroom.

The bad news is that there is absolutely no benefit to doing these tutorials on a computer. The PC software is not Windows-based, does not incorporate the use of a mouse, and requires a hand-held calculator to calculate answers. On the self-assessment tests, the computer inserts itself in an obnoxious way by updating the number and percent correct after each and every question.

Finally, the cost of these disks is prohibitive at \$150 each. Steves' recent publication, *Preparation for Examinations in Nuclear Medicine Technology*, contains 500 questions on all aspects of nuclear medicine with annotated answers and bibliography. When *Preparation for Examinations* is combined with her companion volume, *Review of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, they offer an equal level of coverage of a greater variety of topics at considerably less cost.

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